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**Consumer Price Index
Cleveland-Akron, Ohio CMSA
November 2001**

The Cleveland-Akron, OH Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) declined 1.3 percent from September to November, according to a report issued today by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The November All Items CPI-U for the Cleveland-Akron area stood at 172.3 (1982-84=100). Over the past year, Cleveland area retail price inflation, as measured by the CPI-U, was 1.7 percent. This was double the 3.4 percent increase in the previous annual period ended in November 2000.

A 17.7 percent decline in energy costs was responsible for the latest bimonthly decline in the Cleveland area all items CPI-U. The cost of gasoline, electricity, and utility natural gas were all sharply lower from their September levels. Excluding the decline in energy costs, the all items index would have risen 0.4 percent, according to Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein. Lower energy prices led to declines in the components for housing and transportation. A moderate decline in the component for apparel and a small setback in the other goods and services component were minor contributing factors to the overall bimonthly drop. Small gains in the components for food and beverages, medical care, education and communication, and recreation only partially offset these declines.

Table A. Percent Changes in the CPI-U for the Cleveland-Akron, OH CMSA
(not seasonally adjusted)

(not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure Category	Percent changes from 2 months ago							12 mo. ended Nov. '01
	2000	2001						
	Nov.	Jan.	Mar.	May	July	Sept.	Nov.	
All items	-0.6	1.1	0.6	0.8	-0.2	0.7	-1.3	1.7
Food & beverages	-.3	.6	.2	.1	.5	.4	.7	2.5
Housing	-1.2	1.1	2.7	-.2	1.0	-1.5	-1.6	1.4
Apparel	-.5	-5.6	.7	.4	-3.6	10.7	-1.8	.2
Transportation	-.3	2.3	-2.7	4.3	-5.2	4.0	-3.9	-1.6
Medical care	-.2	1.8	-.2	.4	.5	.4	.3	3.3
Recreation	-.8	1.4	-.5	-.3	.4	.3	.2	1.5
Education & communications	.7	.8	.1	.8	.6	1.6	.4	4.4
Other goods & services	-.2	2.6	-.2	.7	8.3	-.3	-.4	10.9

The transportation component declined 3.9 percent over the two-month period thanks to a 24.0 percent drop in gasoline prices. This latest decline in gasoline prices left prices at the pumps 15.6 percent below their November 2000 levels. Overall transportation costs dropped 1.6 percent over the year after advancing 3.2 percent and 4.8 percent for the one-year periods ending in November 1999 and 2000, respectively.

The housing component fell 1.6 percent from September-November due largely to a seasonal downturn of 16.4 percent in the electricity index and a 10.6 percent drop in the utility natural gas service index. Shelter costs rose 0.3 percent and the index for household furnishings and operations index was up 1.1 percent during the past two months, only partially offsetting these declines. Over the past 12 months, overall housing costs were up 1.4 percent as annual increases in the indexes for shelter (2.8 percent) and household furnishings and operation (5.9 percent) more than offset declines of 13.1 percent in the natural gas index and 4.4 percent in the electricity index.

The apparel component fell 1.8 percent from September, following its seasonal pattern for this time period as many sales were noted. Compared with a year ago, apparel costs edged up only 0.2 percent. In the previous annual period ending in November 2000, apparel prices advanced 1.0 percent.

The food and beverages component rose 0.7 percent as costs for all three of its subcategories posted bimonthly gains--food at home (grocery food), 0.6 percent; food away from home, 0.5 percent, and alcoholic beverages, 2.3 percent. Over the year, the food and beverages component rose 2.5 percent following a smaller 1.7 annual increase a year earlier.

The recreation component increased 0.2 percent from September-November to a level 1.5 percent above that of one year ago. The education and communication component rose 0.4 percent from September, and over the past 12 months, stood 4.4 percent higher.

Medical care costs advanced 0.3 percent, leaving the cost of medical care 3.3 percent above its year ago level. This annual gain was in-line with the 3.2 percent increase for the 12-month period ended in November 2000.

The other goods and services component fell 0.4 percent yet stood 10.9 percent above its level a year earlier. This annual rise was well above the 3.9 percent gain in the previous annual period (November 1999-2000), but in-line with the 9.6 percent increase over the November 1998-1999 period.

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Scheduled release date for the December 2001 CPI:
Wednesday, January 16, 2002

CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Cleveland area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI Hotline service. This recorded message also provides percent changes from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Cleveland is (216) 522-3852.

BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 200 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 30 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880, select menu option 1, and when prompted, order document 1000.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain an U.S. City average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 26 local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities, they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) which equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: The price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the BLS Handbook of Methods, Bulletin 2490, April 1997, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Cleveland-Akron, OH (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001
Expenditure category						
All items	174.6	-	172.3	1.7	-1.3	-
All items (1967=100)	559.4	-	552.1	-	-	-
Food and beverages	177.1	-	178.3	2.5	.7	-
Food	179.2	-	180.3	2.6	.6	-
Food at home	174.1	175.0	175.2	2.0	.6	0.1
Food away from home	190.0	-	190.9	3.5	.5	-
Alcoholic beverages	155.0	-	158.5	1.5	2.3	-
Housing	172.8	-	170.0	1.4	-1.6	-
Shelter	193.9	194.5	194.4	2.8	.3	-.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	186.2	187.4	187.7	2.8	.8	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	192.2	193.3	193.9	2.8	.9	.3
Fuels and utilities	155.1	-	137.3	-7.5	-11.5	-
Fuels	151.1	138.3	130.7	-9.2	-13.5	-5.5
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	153.1	140.3	132.4	-8.9	-13.5	-5.6
Electricity ¹	151.9	127.0	127.0	-4.4	-16.4	.0
Utility natural gas service ¹	157.3	157.3	140.7	-13.1	-10.6	-10.6
Household furnishings and operations	130.6	-	132.1	5.9	1.1	-
Apparel	130.4	-	128.1	.2	-1.8	-
Transportation	157.2	-	151.1	-1.6	-3.9	-
Private transportation	157.5	-	151.9	-.7	-3.6	-
Motor fuel	157.3	123.8	119.5	-15.7	-24.0	-3.5
Gasoline (all types)	156.1	122.7	118.6	-15.6	-24.0	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	155.8	118.3	112.6	-19.3	-27.7	-4.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	159.0	124.2	121.1	-15.7	-23.8	-2.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	156.4	130.1	124.5	-12.8	-20.4	-4.3
Medical care	241.3	-	242.1	3.3	.3	-
Recreation ⁵	102.2	-	102.4	1.5	.2	-
Education and communication ⁵	102.1	-	102.5	4.4	.4	-
Other goods and services	274.3	-	273.3	10.9	-.4	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	174.6	-	172.3	1.7	-1.3	-
Commodities	156.8	-	154.4	.9	-1.5	-
Commodities less food and beverages	144.1	-	139.8	-.1	-3.0	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	160.9	-	151.0	-.2	-6.2	-
Durables	120.3	-	121.9	.2	1.3	-
Services	193.6	-	191.4	2.2	-1.1	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	171.3	-	168.9	1.6	-1.4	-
All items less shelter	168.5	-	165.2	1.2	-2.0	-
Commodities less food	144.6	-	140.6	.1	-2.8	-
Nondurables	169.5	-	165.1	1.2	-2.6	-
Nondurables less food	160.0	-	150.9	-.1	-5.7	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	196.5	-	191.7	1.8	-2.4	-
Services less medical care services	190.0	-	187.6	2.1	-1.3	-
Energy	152.3	131.7	125.4	-11.7	-17.7	-4.8
All items less energy	178.4	-	179.1	3.0	.4	-
All items less food and energy	178.1	-	178.7	3.1	.3	-

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

² Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.